

DEMETER

Women's News of the Monterey Bay Area

VOLUME 2, NO. 7

OCTOBER, 1979

Sponsored by Women For Women

Women's Fair to be held Oct. 27

Women for Women, a coalition of 11 women's groups, and Hartnell College are co-sponsoring the third annual Women's Fair Saturday, Oct. 27, 8:30-4 p.m. at Hartnell College, Salinas. Five hundred women are expected to attend.

The fair is a day of workshops, seminars, entertainment, art shows, and food. The theme this year is "Changing Times, Changing Work," a look at non-traditional careers for women. Forty-three workshops are planned and are scheduled in three time periods so that each participant will be able to attend three different workshops during the course of the day. Registration fee is \$5 and will benefit the Family Emergency Center in Salinas.

Barbara Shipnuck, Monterey County supervisor, will give the keynote address.

Workshops will cover such topics as business ownership; aviation careers; using your volunteer experience; career alternatives in math, media, law and the military; opportunities in the trades; electrician, mechanic, sheetmetal worker, gardener and many others.

Women for Women was formed in 1977 to meet the needs of local women. According to Joy Brennan, coordinator, "We feel strongly about inter-organization connectedness and the sharing of experience, skill and success. We welcome new ideas, different perspectives and increased association."

Women for Women is the administering agency of the Salinas Family Emergency Shelter. The shelter, located in the old juvenile hall on Natividad Road, houses families in crisis, battered women

and victims of sexual assault.

Money to run the shelter comes, in large part, from Monterey County. Funds raised from the Women's Fair, WFW's chief fund-raising event, are used to supplement the county funds and to provide things, such as linens and furniture, that are not covered in the county's grant.

Women for Women, in cooperation with the Monterey Peninsula YWCA, is planning a county-wide resource network with a Salinas telephone number. This information and referral service will provide help to women in Salinas as well as those on the Peninsula.

At the fair, exhibit and booth space will be available to women's clubs and organizations. Food concessions will be available for non-

profit women's groups. Table space for organizations distributing information only is \$10. Groups wishing to sell food or merchandise will be assessed a \$25 fee. Reservations can be obtained through Linda Robinson, Booth Chair, c-o YWCA, 276 Eldorado, Monterey.

While Women for Women is a coalition of women's groups, individual members, not affiliated with a group, are invited to join. Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at the Salinas Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Brennan summed up what Women for Women is trying to accomplish when she said, "Mutual effort and cooperation are an unbeatable team and a positive step toward greater understanding."

WOMEN'S FAIR FERIA DE MUJERES



Editorial

Why Women Must Join Together

Saturday, Sept. 15 was a very special day for the Monterey women's community. It started with a picnic on Carmel Beach. We shared food, laughs, and played some rousing games of football. That night twenty of us went to Santa Cruz for the Meg Christian concert. It was a wonderful concert, good music speaking about the many experiences of being a woman. Afterwards we went dancing. As "We Are Family" played, we joined in a large circle. I had "all my sisters with me." I felt warm and happy seeing so many women enjoying themselves and each other. Our women's community is growing strong.

As I was drifting off to sleep that night I awoke to the sound of a woman's piercing scream "No, stop! You can't do that!" Throwing on clothes I ran towards the screaming. Others were running to help also.

She was sitting on a bench shaking, with blood streaming down her face. Someone was calling the police and another man was getting some ice for the swelling. Her husband had beaten her and broken her nose. She ran out of her hotel room screaming.

The policeman drove up. He was the same one who had been at the hotel minutes earlier. He left the fighting couple telling the husband to go to the Pancake House to calm down.

When the policeman saw her bleeding face he kept telling her to lie down and without any kind of comfort

told her that "Everything is okay. You're safe now." Two other policemen drove up. She asked if they were going to arrest her husband. The police discouraged her by saying, "To do that you will have to come with us now and make a citizen's arrest. You wouldn't want to do that, would you?"

Paramedics came. Emergency medical technicians came. Bantering good mornings were exchanged and very little attention was paid to the victim. The only remark of an EMT was, "You were hit in the face, is that all?" Finally they took her to the hospital in an ambulance.

I went to bed feeling sick. A woman was beaten and all the emergency officers dismissed her trauma. I was proud of the community's response. She didn't yell "fire," she yelled "help" and people responded.

The police report read, "3:43, complaint of woman screaming. Investigated, found domestic disturbance."

I lay thinking about the picnic and the concert. It was wonderful playing together and being mutually supported. The night's incident brought home for me why we all came together in the first place. We can't accept a society that allows a woman to be beaten and the police to dismiss it as a "domestic disturbance." We have to keep fighting for equality and our own human rights. There's a lot of work to be done.

—JT Mason

New Subscribers

Thanks and welcome to our new subscribers:

Grace Warwick
Donna Smith
Lorraine Lampkin
Planned Parenthood of
Monterey County
Emily J. Armstrong
Jodi A. McCullah
Diana Smith
June Y. Schwartz
P.J. Norris
Lisa W. deGarrido
Ira J. Lively
Erika Nielsen
Sandra L. McWilliams
Janice Earhart
Elizabeth Atkinson
Linda Gonzalez

Special thanks for renewals:

Kate Elvin
Gale Feuer-Barish
Cheryl McGinley
Dena Cooper
Cafe Balthazar
Ruth Whitcomb

'Look Out' for Spring

Feminist Talent Show a Success

An enthusiastic audience of about 250 persons turned out Saturday, Sept. 8, to see the first Women's Variety Talent Show, presented by Demeter Productions at Robert Down School Auditorium in Pacific Grove.

The show netted about \$350, half of which has been donated to the Pacific Grove Art Center Community Mural Project by PG artist Kate Elvin.

Because of legal technicalities regarding the Art Center's non-profit status, the show could not be officially co-sponsored by the Mural Project and Demeter Productions as was originally intended. However, that proved to be only a superficial technicality as the two groups continued to work hand in hand on the project with Kate Elvin and Mural Project volunteers putting an incredible amount of time and energy into the show.

The women responsible for the planning of the show were Kate Elvin, JT Mason, Mary van Buuren, CJ McArthur, Barbara Bastian, and Dawn Sare. Thanks go to Orange Cleghorn, assisting backstage with lighting, and to Raindance for helping out with sound. A special thanks goes to Mary van Buuren, who originally helped conceive of the talent show, worked on the planning staff, and put in a wonderful performance as a mime doing the duties of MC. Sound was provided by Brenda from Transisters, a women's collective from Santa Cruz who provided the sound for the Trish Nugent concert.

The talented performers were: Karen Vaughn, juggling; Mary van Buuren, Sandra Faulkner, and Laea Clayton, dancing; Laura Kordes, classical piano; Katherine Reclusado, Andrea Gurtin, and

Continued on page 11

Letters to the Editor

Thanks from the Mural Project

Editor:

I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thanks to Demeter Productions for making the recent Women's Variety Talent Show possible and successful, and for their generous contribution of half the proceeds to the Pacific Grove Art Center's Community Mural Project.

In my capacity of director-coordinator for the show, it was my extreme pleasure to work with all the women who became involved. The perseverance, hard work, and tender love that was put into the show by the technical staff, performers, and volunteers was well rewarded by the enthusiastic response of the audience and success of the show (not to mention the cast party that later levitated the house).

I wish to extend my special thanks to Mrs. Holmquest, (principal of Robert Down School); CJ McArthur for her remarkable endurance and help with coordinating; Debi Busman for her amazing speed and thoroughness; Dawn Sare, who must be the most efficient stage manager I've ever worked with; the Pacific Grove Community Child Care Center and the only men working on the show who provided child care; and, the audience who received our efforts so warmly. And then there were the performers who shone so brilliantly I was amazed. Such a wealth of talent we have amongst us! I hope we have inspired other women with closet talents to come out!

I hope this talent show sets an example for everyone that we are able to do anything we set our minds to do — and that we can do it with a high level of integrity and quality. We have the community and resources available, and I believe it is our obligation as 20th century women to take advantage of the many opportunities surrounding us. I urge women to become involved in the multitude of projects going on in our community.

For those of you who missed our first show the word is "Look Out" for the spring. And for those of you who caught this round "Look Out" next time, This was just a beginning!

Kate Elvin
Artist-Coordinator
Pacific Grove Art Center's
Community Mural Project

For more information on the talent show, see article on preceding page.

Working Together

Editor:

Thanks to one of my friends I learned of *Demeter*.

It certainly seems to have grown since then (approximately 6-8 months ago). I am truly impressed and would like to subscribe.

As a woman I have been a victim of unnecessary prejudice, going as far back as a heavily sheltered

childhood. As a result of this, I have been fearful of venturing out alone in the world until just recently.

The most thrilling personal experience I have done on my own has been learning to fly an airplane. It has begun my thinking that becoming a commercial pilot could be a way out of Civil Service secretarial boredom. If anybody has gotten at least a private pilot's license, I wish to share experiences with them.

I am interested in seeking other professional alternatives, and perhaps meeting other women through *Demeter* may be of assistance. After all, we can't make changes in society unless we're loud enough to be heard, and one little voice doesn't carry very much volume in a crowd.

Keep up the hard work, I'll do what I can to help.

Sandy McWilliams

Marina

You may be interested in the Women's Fair (see article on page 1). One of the workshops will deal with careers for women in aviation.

So Long, Sweeties!

Demeter is sad to lose two of our best writers. Lois Van Beers, founder and co-editor of *Demeter* is going to UC Berkeley to do graduate work in public policy. Vicki Smith, one of our longest staff writers and news editor, is also going to Berkeley for the doctoral program in sociology. Both women have worked long and hard to make *Demeter* the finest feminist newspaper on the Peninsula. Good luck to both of you. We're going to miss you. (And be sure to write!)

Editors:

Lois Van Beers

JT Mason

Production:

Debi Busman

Joan Weiner

Graphics:

Barbara Bastian

Cyndi Sumner

Reporters:

Janie Forrest

Diana Skiles

Cathy Kozak

Vicki Smith

Sandra McKee

Cyndi Sumner

Demeter is a feminist publication designed to keep women informed of pertinent issues. Contributions of articles, graphics and money are welcomed. Subscriptions are \$3.00 for six months. Mail check or money order to *Demeter*, P.O. Box 1661, Monterey, Calif. 93940.

Local and National News Briefs

Mobilization Month

October is mobilization month — in New York City, for a Women Against Pornography march through Times Square; in Los Angeles, for the National Organization for Women annual conference; and all over the country, for Abortion Rights Action Week.

—“Abortion . . . It's Our Right” is the theme of Oct. 22-29 events. Beginning with candlelight vigils and ending with presentations of petitions in Washington, D.C., and state capitols, a program of teach-ins, seminars, and speak-outs will reach out to students, working women, homemakers, and poor women in hundreds of cities across the country.

—“NOW . . . More Than Ever” is the call for the 1979 national NOW Conference, Oct. 5-7, at the Bonaventure Hotel in LA. There will be workshops on current issues, election of officers, and celebrations. Nonmembers can participate; registration fee is \$35.

—Women Against Pornography expects more than 20,000 participants from across the East Coast for the New York march through Times Square Saturday, Oct. 20. Events in New York leading up to the march have included tours of Times Square porn areas and a Feminist Conference on Pornography.

—Ms.

Sterilization Abuse

A sterilization abuse study recently done by the U.S. Indian Health Service reportedly showed that Native American women were not forced to get sterilized.

However, the fine print in the report reveals that many women did not know they had a right to refuse the procedure.

A large number of the women apparently agreed to the operation because they were afraid their children would be taken away from them and that their welfare and other services would be withheld if they did not agree to the procedure.

There are now approximately one million sterilizations performed on women each year, with an overwhelming majority of them Native American, black, chicana and Puerto Rican.

Teaching hospitals are pushing sterilization, especially hysterectomies, to train residents, says the American Friends Service Committee. “Almost every major teaching hospital in the country has doubled the number of elective tubal ligations since 1971. Women are frequently not informed of the irreversibility of surgical sterilization, the risks, or alternative methods of birth control,” they say.

In 1974 the Federal Government set up guidelines for hospitals and other health care providers who receive federal funds for sterilizations.

—Equal Times

Him-icanes

After the early “him-icane” jokes about the first male-named hurricane, “Bob,” wore off, most radio and television weather forecasters made “Bob” a genderless “it” in record time. It was nothing like the old days when hurricanes with female names were known to “flirt with the Florida coast,” were “perfectly formed,” had tempers that “teased and threatened.”

Houston *Breakthrough* columnist Gabrielle Cosgriff, who noted the difference, speculated on how hurricane “Bob” might have been described if the weather forecasters had used comparable sexual connotations to describe the weakness of the storm, suggesting, “Bob can't get it up,” or “Bob peters out,” or “Impotent Bob slinks ashore.” An outdoors writer for the Houston *Chronicle* was so distraught at the change, he was driven to homophobia: “Bob, the first man-child of the National Hurricane Center, marks the first time ever the seafarers must wait to receive a gentleman caller,” he wrote. “At any rate, when Bob comes twirling his skirts ashore he will have an effect on the upper Texas shore.”

—National NOW Times

Gay March on Wash.

Officials of the Oct. 14 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights have announced a 24-hour toll free telephone number (1-800-528-7382) to provide callers with information on scheduled events, transportation and housing.

Many marchers will be traveling to Washington via Amtrak “Gay Freedom Trains” led by Rev. Troy Perry and feminist comedienne Robin Tyler. These trains will be stopping for station rallies at cities along the route.

—Sojourner

State Bar asked to Avoid non-ERA States

The State Bar Conference of Delegates has taken action against states which have not ratified the ERA.

Though not binding on the State Bar, the conference approved a resolution that seeks to prevent the bar from paying travel expenses to staff members and personnel who attend American Bar Association meetings in non-ERA states.

In addition, the resolution calls on the ABA to refrain from scheduling meetings in non-ERA states and to cancel meetings already scheduled for those states.

—LA Daily Journal

Cal.'s 1st Gay Judge

The first openly homosexual judge in California was sworn-in to the Los Angeles Superior Court Sept. 17, 1979.

Stephen M. Lachs, formerly a Juvenile Court commissioner in Los Angeles, was named to the bench by Gov. Brown.

Steve Duscha of the governor's press office said Lachs' homosexuality was not a factor in his appointment. “He was appointed because of his record as a court commissioner and a lawyer. We expect he will be judged on the basis of what he can do as a judge.”

—LA Daily Journal

Community News and Events

Demeter Productions

Demeter Productions will have an organizational meeting Monday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m., 199 Chaparral Rd., Carmel Valley. We will discuss our upcoming concerts and events. For directions and more information contact JT at 659-3752.

Holly Near Concert

Holly Near and Robin Flower will perform in concert Oct. 19 at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. The concert is a Women's Works production and will be a benefit for People for Nuclear Free Future. Tickets are available through the Demeter staff, the Women's Center, 276 Eldorado, Monterey and Do Re Mi Music, 3700 Barnyard, Carmel.

Men's Assertiveness Workshop

Sandra Faulkner and Cuca Hepburn will lead a two-day workshop on "Assertiveness Training for Men" Oct. 20 and 21. Feminist process and structure will apply in the men's group to give direction to men who want to express their feelings directly and honestly.

Fee for the two-day workshop is \$75. For more information, call Cuca at 375-3567.

Women's Study Group

A women's study group is forming to read about and discuss political and social issues, from socialism to sexism. For more information call Cyndi at 372-9137.

Monterey Free University

UFM, Monterey's educational alternative, is offering the following classes of special interest to women: —*Massage for Women* Oct. 21, 9:15-4:30.

—*Custody — Mothers Without Their Children*, Oct. 13, 10-4 p.m. Will explore society's "rules of motherhood."

Register in person at the UFM office, College Center Building, MPC campus or call 373-2641.

UFM is sponsoring a health fair, Oct. 20, 8:30-5:30 p.m., MPC campus. The free event will promote self-help care for people interested in promoting their own well-being.

Monterey Peninsula College

MPC is offering the following classes of interest to women:

—*Self Defense for Women* (9 weeks), Oct. 23-Dec. 18, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Instruction in basic techniques of self defense.

—*Women in Assertiveness Training* (9 weeks), Oct. 23-Dec. 18, 7-10 p.m. To help students learn to assert themselves. Deals with clarification of assertive, non-assertive, and aggressive behavior. Instructor: Cuca Hepburn.

—*In Search of Self* (4 weeks), Oct. 15-Nov. 5, 7-10 p.m. A small discussion group which will deal with concerns of the participants. Instructor: June Schwartz.

For more information contact the college at 649-1150.

Women for Women

Women for Women will hold its regular monthly meeting 7:30, Oct. 25 at the Salinas Community Center, North Main Street, next to the rodeo grounds.

YWCA

—Women's Center. General meeting Wednesday, Oct. 10 and 24, 5:15-7 p.m.

—Investment Club. Oct. 11 and 25. Big Dipper Restaurant, Pacific Grove, 7:30 a.m.

—Women's Support Group. Tuesday, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 7:30-9:30 p.m., YWCA. Fee \$16 plus membership.

—Wellness Class. Thursday, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, 7-9 p.m., YWCA. Fee: \$12.50 members, \$20 non-members.

—Career counseling, testing and resume preparation are now available from the YWCA's career counselor, Florence Mason. She can be reached at the Y.

—Training for volunteers to staff the Women's Center information and referral phone lines will start in October. Call Linda Robinson for details.

Call the Y at 649-0834 for registration and-or further information on any of these programs.

National Women's Political Caucus

The National Women's Political Caucus will hold its regular monthly meeting Oct. 18, 7:30. Agenda in-

cludes nomination of officers for the coming year, and presentations by school board candidates. Call Shirley Chapman for location, 373-5193.

NWPC will hold a fund-raising garage sale Saturday, Oct. 20, at 226 Walnut St., Pacific Grove.

NOW

The National Organization for Women had not scheduled its October meeting at press time. Call Sandra McKee, 375-7794 or Bev Harrison, 375-6484 for date, time and place.

The NOW Action Team is working for ratification of the ERA. For further information, contact Bev Harrison or Jane Britton, 373-5441. Meetings will be held Oct. 9 and 23 at the YWCA, 7:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed.

WADV

Women Against Domestic Violence will hold its monthly meeting Wednesday, Oct. 10 at 5:30 p.m. at Barbara Greenberg's home. Call the Y for location.

WADV will hold advocate training this month. If you would like to join the Advocate Team, call Maria Gitin, WADV coordinator, at 649-0834.

Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood of Monterey County is sponsoring a workshop for people trying to decide if and when to have a child and for professionals working with people to help them make the baby decision.

"The Baby Decision" will be held Saturday, Oct. 13, 9:30 to 4 at MPC. There is a \$10 registration fee that includes lunch.

Call Planned Parenthood, 373-1691, for registration materials. All participants must pre-register by Oct. 5.

Women's Rap Group

The Women's Rap Group continues to meet Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. All women are welcome. For information on meeting location call Claire Parrish at 375-6484 or Mary van Buuren at 372-6680.

october



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Women's Support Group,
7:30, YWCA

YWCA's wellness class
starts, 7 p.m.
My Sister's House, KAZU
90.3 FM, 12:30-3

Women's Rap Group,
7:30. For location call
Janell, 372-6680, or
Claire, 375-6484

NOW National Con-
vention, Los Angeles

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Happy Birthday KAZU!
Women's music, KAZU
90.3 FM, 12-3

NOW Action Team ERA
meeting, 7:30, YWCA
Women's Support Group,
7:30, YWCA

WADV general meeting,
5:30. Call 649-0834 for
location

YWCA's Investment Club
breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Big
Dipper Restaurant, PG
My Sister's House, KAZU
90.3 FM, 12:30-3

Women's Rap Group,
7:30. For location call
Janell, 372-6680, or
Claire, 375-6484.

"The Baby Decision"
workshop, 9:30-4, MPC
Custody - Mothers
Without Their Children,
10-4, UFM

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National March on
Washington for Lesbian
and Gay Rights
Women's music, KAZU
90.3 FM, 12-3

Demeter Productions
organizational meeting, 7
p.m. Call 659-3752 for
location.
In Search of Self starts at
MPC, 7-10 p.m.

Women's Support Group,
7:30 p.m., YWCA

California State Supreme
Court session in Mon-
terey, Colton Hall, 9:45
a.m.

National Women's
Political Caucus meeting,
7:30
My Sister's House, KAZU
90.3 FM, 12:30-3

Holly Near and Robin
Flower concert, Santa
Cruz Civic Auditorium, to
benefit People for Nuclear
Free Future
Women's Rap Group

NWPC garage sale, 226
Walnut St., PG
UFM Health Fair, 8:30-
5:30, MPC
Assertiveness Training for
Men workshop

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Massage for Women,
9:15-4:30, UFM
Women's music, KAZU
90.3 FM, 12-3

Women's Support Group
NOW Action Team ERA
meeting, 7:30, YWCA
Self Defense for Women
starts at MPC, 7:30-9:30
p.m.
Women in Assertiveness
Training starts at MPC, 7-
10 p.m.

Demeter deadline for
copy

YWCA's Investment Club
Women for Women
general meeting, 7:30,
Salinas Community
Center
My Sister's House, KAZU
90.3 FM, 12:30-3

Women's Rap Group,
7:30. For location call
Janell, 372-6680, or
Claire, 375-6484.

Women's Fair: "Changing
Times, Changing Work,"
8:30-4, Hartnell College

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Happy Birthday Cafe
Balthazar!
Women's music, KAZU
90.3 FM, 12-3

Women's Support Group,
7:30, YWCA

Happy Halloween
Women's Center meeting,
5:30 p.m., YWCA

bb baskin

Legislation for Reproductive Rights

At midnight on Sept. 14 (the last day of the legislative session) a narrow victory was won for the pro-choice movement. The continuance of the debate on abortion funding was voted against, thus Medical will continue to fund abortions within the guidelines set in the state budget.

The fight for reproductive freedom is not over, though. The next legislative session begins on Jan. 7, 1980, and the debate over funding will begin again. The decision on Medical funding of abortion will be written into law at that time. Our Assembly and Senate representatives must be made to answer to women's needs on the issue of reproductive rights.

All Assembly and half our Senate representatives will be up for re-election next year. We can exert pressure on these representatives to be responsive to women's needs. Write to them and express your opinion on the issue of reproductive rights.

You can keep up with the most current information on the legal status of abortion funding and reproductive rights in this state. Planned Parenthood and affiliated groups have established a Pro-Choice Hotline with the aid of a grant from the Ms. Foundation. The toll free number is (800) 952-5765. You will be greeted with a recording of the latest HOT NEWS.

We need to keep working on this!

—Vicki Smith



Rape Crisis and WADV Hold Media Conference

On Wednesday, Sept. 12 the Rape Crisis Center and Women Against Domestic Violence held a press conference. A major reason for the conference was to discuss the unrealistic picture that the media presents of the problem of violence toward women. On the rare occasions when the issue is even addressed it is often distorted.

The Rideout case in Oregon made national headlines while here on the Peninsula there were similar, more severe cases of spousal rape. Domestic violence is an ignored crime. Because of the "sanctity" of marriage, domestic violence is seen as a private problem instead of criminal abuse.

Lynn White, director of the Rape Crisis Center and Maria Gittin, coordinator of Women Against Domestic Violence (WADV) spoke of the problems here in Monterey County. The statistics they presented were hard to hear:

—Rape is America's fastest growing violent crime. A forcible rape occurs in the United States every nine minutes. The FBI estimates that only one in ten rapes is ever reported.

—The average rapist rapes between 17 and 25 times before ever being apprehended.

—The conviction rate for rapists is about 3 percent and when convicted the average time (nationally) that he spends in prison is 8 months.

—There was an increase of 278 percent in **reported** rapes in Monterey County between 1968 and 1977.

—The WADV crisis line receives 30 calls per month reporting cruel and vicious assaults.

Many laws have been passed that better protect the rights of the victim but more needs to be done. We need to keep informed of laws pending — such as the Spouse Rape Bill — and pressure our representatives to pass them. Violence against women can no longer be accepted as an unavoidable occurrence. We need to "fight back in large numbers." To become involved locally, contact the Rape Crisis Center at 373-3955 and Women Against Domestic Violence at 649-0834.

—JT Mason
—Debi Busman

Breakthrough in Parthenogenesis

One egg plus one egg equals a developing embryo, at least under special laboratory conditions. And eventually this may add up to animal husbandry without male animals. A successful first step in fatherless reproduction of mammals has been reported by Pierre Soupart of Vanderbilt University.

Parthenogenesis (egg development without the entrance of a sperm) can occur in reptiles, fish and birds, but in no experiments with mammals have entirely fatherless embryos reached birth, says Soupart. His recent experiments with mouse eggs, however, suggest that such an experiment may soon be successful. What Soupart has done is combine two unfertilized mouse eggs by a standard cell fusion technique. The resulting cell has the same chromosome count as a sperm-fertilized egg, but no other sperm factors. Even so, he found that the double-egg cell divides in the laboratory as if it were a fertilized egg and eventually achieves an apparently normal 64-cell blastocyst stage.

Ironically, this dual-egg conception came about during an attempt to learn more about the role of sperm. "What does the fertilizing sperm bring into an egg besides its chromosomes?" Soupart had asked. His experiment suggests that there may be nothing special that the sperm contributes, at least to early embryonic development, beyond chromosomes and a membrane perturbation.

The next step, if true spermless reproduction is to be achieved, will be to transfer the embryos to mouse foster mothers to see whether normal development will continue.

—Science News

Action Team for ERA

The time limit for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment is June 30, 1982. An extension was won in October 1978 from the original deadline of March 22, 1979.

We must not assume that a cause so right can not fail. A national ratification is necessary.

The National Organization for Women Action Team proposes to put forth a machinery of sorts to work within. There are a number of things we can all do. Telephone calls to be made, letters to be written, the list could go on forever. And, yes, it *does* take concrete action to influence the politicians.

If you have any energy, even enough to sign a petition, you are just the person we would like to talk to. Call Bev Harrison at 375-6484 or Sandra McKee at 375-7794 for more information.

The time is NOW.

The NOW Action Team will meet 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 9 and 23 at the YWCA to plan strategy for ratification of the ERA. Everyone is invited.

—Sandra McKee

NOW Natl. Conference

The 1979 NOW National Conference will be held Oct. 5-7 at the Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles. The major focus of the conference will be the election of national officers for the next two years. There will also be action on NOW policies and ERA ratification strategy, as well as a variety of workshops on many topics.

Major entertainment is planned for both Friday and Saturday and is free to conference registrants. Friday night features Margie Adam, Holly Near, and Vicki Randle with Maya Angelou as MC. Saturday offers a choice between a disco and a film festival. California NOW will provide a hospitality suite where you can drop in to take a break, meet people and get food.

Dena Cooper and Bev Harrison will be the delegates representing Monterey Peninsula NOW. This is Dena's first national conference and Bev's third conference. While only delegates can vote, any NOW member may participate in workshops and discussions.

For further information call Bev Harrison at 375-6484.

—Bev Harrison

*There is a woman. She is young. She is a young woman.
She pushes her baby in a canvas stroller. Her wavy hair
is only beginning to gray.*

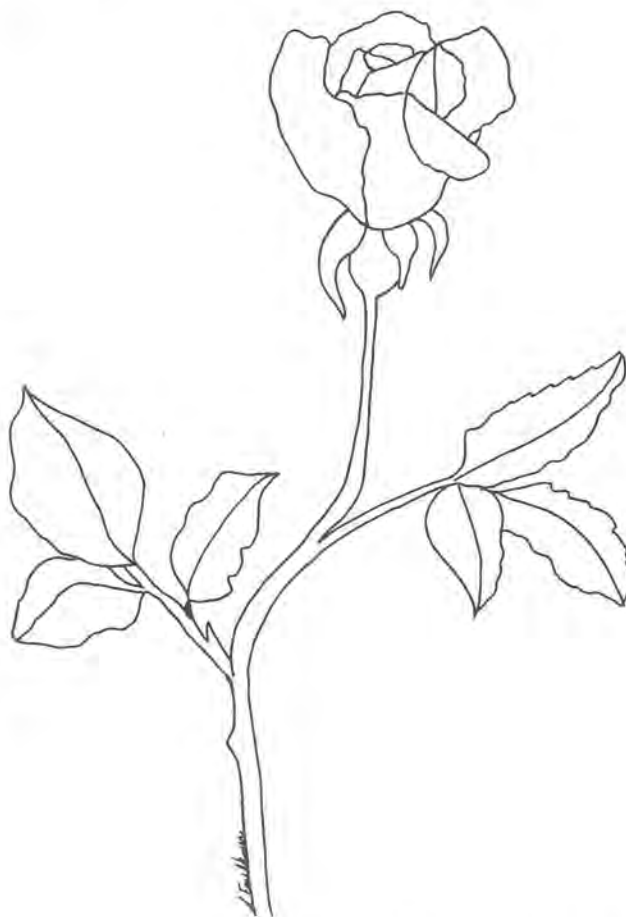
*Her daughter sucks her fist and coos.
The stroller rumbles over the bumpy asphalt;
the burnt gold skeletons of thistles,
the purple feather weeds, the smell of late summer dust;
soft thud thud of a woodpecker
when she stops to pick blackberries
plump as her baby's thigh.*

*Even a year ago she would have said how blessed
she felt to have these days, this interlude,
her world spotted giraffes with their delicate horns
and trees with leaves in crayon box colors.*

*But that time is already past.
She has been storing these years
like plants store sugars in their roots,
like the black earth stores sun,
and her baby stores honey milk in her wide duck belly for
the night.*

*Later she will cut yellow roses,
set them in water on her husband's desk.
She will dial the phone and take laundry out of the drier.
And she will struggle with words, with these words
but not with the words, with the meaning
of the words, with the meaning of her
life in a world where the season is closing
and will there be another?
and is there anything that she can do?
and can she do it?
and will she?*

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Graphic by Sandra Faulkr



Photo by Carol Hellander

*once i was an unborn woman
and i was 'shamed of myself'*

*you let me hurt
and brought tears to my eyes*

*you let me cry
and brought hurt to my soul*

*but you . . . you
brought me love
and taught me to hurt
and cry to show me
how to love*

*i
love
you*

—Lambert-van Buuren



Graphic by Barbara Bastian

All Things Considered

What can I tell you about the problems in women's medical care that you don't already know?

—Over half the hysterectomies currently performed in the U.S. and a good deal of the radical mastectomies are being performed unnecessarily.

—In the late 19th century tens of thousands of ovariectomies (female "castration") were performed to control women's unruly behavior.

—Clitorises and ovaries were routinely removed to cure such pathologies as masturbation, attempted suicide, troublesomeness, and erotic tendencies.

—It is an ongoing struggle to convince doctors we are not suffering from hysterics or silly self-indulgent malingering when we seek help for a women's complaint. (Did you know that the word hysteria comes from the Greek word for uterus?)

—We must struggle to control our own bodies, and there is a great need for more self-help clinics.

The medical system is strategic for women's liberation. It is the guardian of reproductive technology — birth control, abortion, and a means for safe childbirth. As feminists we are antagonistic to the medical system as a source of sexist ideology. But at the same time, we are totally dependent on medical technology for some of the most basic and primitive freedoms we require as women — freedom from unwanted pregnancies. We may be repelled by the crude sexism we encounter in doctors, we may be enraged by the sophisticated sexism passed off as medical theory, but we have nowhere else to turn for abortions, diaphragms and IUDs, antibiotics, and essential surgery.

It seems then, that justification for sexual discrimination ultimately rests on the one thing that differentiates women from men: our bodies. In the traditions of Western thought, man has always represented wholeness, strength and health. Women, on the other hand, has been a "misbegotten male," weak and incomplete. Since Hippocrates bewailed women's "perpetual infirmities," medicine has only echoed the prevailing male

sentiment; it has treated pregnancy and menopause as a disease, menstruation as a chronic disorder, and childbirth as a surgical event. At the same time, woman's "weakness" has never barred her from heavy labor, and her "instability" has never disqualified her from total responsibility for childrearing.

But the issue is not biology; it is power. It could be debated endlessly, for example, about whether premenstrual tension is real or psychosomatic, whether the last months of pregnancy are invigorating or debilitating. But the real question is: Who decides the consequences? We could clash over the culture of childbirth, whether or not having test-tube babies would be healthier and more liberating than natural childbirth. But who decides what options will actually be available to us? More important, who controls the social context of childbirth — the availability of abortion at one end and of day care at the other?

This, it seems, is the most profound insight — the understanding that our oppression is socially, and not biologically, ordained. To act on this understanding is to ask for more than control over our own bodies. It is to ask for, and to struggle for, control over the social options available to us, and control over all the institutions of society that now define those options.

Women's Programs, Music on KAZU

Women's music in Monterey is growing more available. KAZU (90.3 FM) in Pacific Grove has three shows that specialize in women's music.

On Sundays, Laurie Meagher does "Women's Music for Everybody," from 12-3. Thursdays, from 12:30-3, JT Mason does "My Sister's House," a program of women's issues and music. Fridays, from 1-3, Cyndi Sumner does an "Afternoon Mix," specializing in women in song.

Talent Show

Continued from page 2

Laurie Meagher, guitar and vocals; Sue Putnam, CJ McArthur and Sandra Faulkner in a very powerful drama piece, *Calm Down Mother*; and CJ McArthur performing *Twisted*, by Joni Mitchell, with Kathy Nathan on bass.

The show was concluded with the performance of JT Mason, Barbara Bastian, Kathy Stoner, and Mickey Welsh. At the end of four original songs, the audience and all the performers joined together to sing the chorus from *A Little Feeling*, written by JT Mason.

Refreshments for the show were provided by the Bagel Bakery of PG and various community members while free childcare was provided by the PG Child Care Center.

The show was considered so successful that producers are considering producing shows semi-annually. The word is "Look Out" for next spring.



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A Continuing Series

Feminism—A Personal Perspective

Arriving at a feminist perspective is a profoundly personal experience. The process forces one to re-examine many unquestioned customs and relationships. Feminism helps women realize they have a right to make many more choices than society commonly permits. Through Demeter we hope in some way to reach every woman. Each month a woman will be writing a chronicle of the process she went through in becoming a feminist. We encourage others to send in their own accounts of their emergence as feminists.

I spent my most formative years in academic life. The oppression of women within the academy is so blatant and pervasive that it is tempting to feel crazy but absolutely essential to be a feminist.

After years of being a "precocious" child, I entered graduate school at 21. There I was branded a "precocious" woman.

I experienced my adulthood — and the insult. Thus my feminist consciousness was initiated experientially, existentially, and unalterably.

Acknowledging this process affirms a basic feminist value because *attention to process is a substantive political statement*. By creating our own processes we build models for effective sharing and equal participation. We challenge patriarchal assumptions that interests must compete.

Other values are basic to my own feminist perspective and it would be proper to consider each of them in detail. For the moment, I shall merely mention that these values include anti-racism, collectivity, anti-consumerism, and motherhood.

Aesthetically, and predictably, the consequence of my feminism created the possibility of relating to women sexually. Jill Johnston's analysis rung in my ears:

"... until women see in each other the possibility of a primal commitment which includes sexual love they will be denying themselves the love and value they readily accord to men thus affirming their second class status."

Practically, I worked with women and it was unsurprising to fall in love with those people with whom I chose to share most of my time and tasks.

Being a lesbian ranges far beyond all the bonuses of sexual expression. As Debi Busman reminded in last month's *Demeter*, "To 'simply love women' is a very profound and political act in a society that devalues women." As a lesbian feminist — or "political dyke" — I feel my self integrated: my identity affirmed, my awareness extended, and my experiences validated.

Sally Gearhart appropriately notes that defining a lesbian *solely in the terms of her sexual activity* is basically a male analysis that does not fully describe her own experiences of being a lesbian. She experiences creative women supporting other creative women. She experiences the spiritual and psychic task of self-nurturance. She experiences a sense of wholeness.

Also, Sally Gearhart speaks very eloquently for her self in "The Spiritual Dimension: Death and Resurrection of a Hallelujah Dyke," an article included in the extraordinary anthology, *Our Right to Love* (Prentice-Hall, 1978), edited

by Ginny Vida and produced by the women of the National Gay Task Force.

My own experience was not to come out of a closet but to accept a process of transitions. Twenty-seven years of card-carrying heterosexuality yielded to a brief season of "bi-sexuality" mingled with celibacy, then on to the peaceful recognition of my commitments to (and comfort with) women.

Choosing not to enter a closet involves accepting my self. It is not a matter of talking about my sex life — I never did that when I related with men either. It is a matter of acknowledging that being a lesbian is a basic part of my personal integration.

Further, by identifying our selfs with our good works, our good parenting, and our clarity, we interrupt stereotypes about lesbians. We do not need to "show" anybody anything so much as *we need to see our successes, our happiness, and our power*.

Surely it is obvious that the first step in the process of liberation is survival: both economic and psychic. As feminists, lesbians or not, we affirm our selfs as women and acknowledge our common life experiences.

Ending our isolation, we take our first steps.

—Cuca Hepburn

Women Speak Out



We want rights. The flour-merchant and the house builder, and the postman charge us no less on account of our sex; but when we endeavor to earn money to pay all these, then, indeed, we find the difference. —Lucy Stone